Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance of Ontario

Ministry of Finance  
​​​​​​​Frost Building South  
7th Floor  
7 Queen's Park Cres., Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

[date]

Dear Minister Bethlenfalvy:

I am a cultural professional in the province, the author of [ ] books…

It has recently come to my attention that the budget of the Ontario Arts Council is in danger of a reduction. I’m writing to discourage that decision.

According to Statistics Canada, the cultural sector in Ontario was responsible for a provincial GDP impact of $28.7 billion in 2019. What’s more, the segment of that sector supported by the OAC was responsible for over $5.4 billion of provincial GDP. This is a significant contribution from a traditionally undervalued sector, and one that cannot be expected to continue without robust public investment.

Personally, I believe the budget for the OAC has never been high enough to support a sector that gives so much back to the province and its people. I would expect, in the longer term, that your government will see fit to significantly increase support for this cornerstone cultural agency. In the meantime, I join with many of my fellow cultural workers in asking you to maintain the OAC budget at its current level while the sector continues to recover from the economic effects of the global health crisis.

Sincerely,

[name]

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Cc. Premier Doug Ford

Hon. Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport